

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments to the previously presented claims, and the new claims, are all supported by the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been entered.

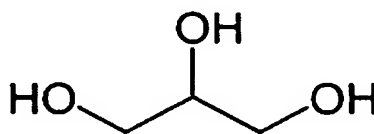
As the Examiner will note, the claims have been narrowed to those where the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono carboxylic acids containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms, dicarboxylic acids selected from glutaric acid and adipic acid, and poly carboxylic acids selected from tri- and tetra-carboxylic acids. Dependent claims are present that are directed to each of the different types of carboxylic acids. Fatty acids have been eliminated as a possible required element.

GB 14,767 relates to fatty acids, ricinoleic acid in particular, and is thus no longer pertinent to the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The obviousness rejection, over a combination of at least three references, is traversed.

The rejection critically relies on Satoshi as teaching the use of certain carboxylic acids. However, all acids taught therein are taught as useful, while the primary references cited against the claims describe acids like, e.g., acetic acid. Satoshi does not describe acetic acid, and instead directs one of ordinary skill to use higher acids in the chlorination of certain ether compounds of formula I therein.

Glycerol, of course, is not an ether compound:



Glycerol

and thus, given the different reactions in the three primary references as compared with the reaction in Satoshi and the different carboxylic acids used, one of ordinary skill in the art

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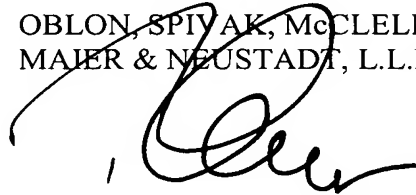
would have no reason to combine individual components from these dissimilar reactions to provide a process as claimed.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection is in error, and that it should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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